Fishery Leaflet
#336
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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

January - March 1963

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service - Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

JAN 24 1963
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

Total United States commercial fisheries catch during '62, according to preliminary figures, was about 5,225,000,000 lbs. compared with 5,183,000,000 lbs. during '61. This was the second largest domestic catch. The record was established in 1956 when 5,268,000,000 lbs. of fish were landed.

Cold-storage holdings of edible fishery products Dec. 1, '62 = 221.3 mil. lbs.; Dec. 1, '61 = 194.7 mil. lbs.; Dec. 1, '60 = 230.6 mil. lbs. Haddock fillets and breaded shrimp are two of the major fishery items in lower supply than last year. Inventories of most all other popular species in cold-storage are larger.

Menhaden landings for reduction during '62 = 2,236 mil. lbs., about 55 mil. lbs. less than were taken during '61.

Maine Sardines - Total '62 pack amounted to 2.1 mil. cases. The current stock position reflects the '62 comeback of the Maine sardine after the drastic decline in catch and pack in '61.

Imports during the first 11 months '62 were higher than Jan.-Nov. '61 receipts for most species. Receipts of groundfish were about 13% higher than in same period in '61. Shrimp imports were also 13% higher. Fish meal receipts were 20% higher in the first eleven months of '62 than year earlier.

Exports during first ten months '62 were generally higher than those in same period a year earlier. Lower exports noted for canned and frozen shrimp, fish oils, and oysters.

Wholesale price index for edible fishery products in Nov. '62 was 118.3% of the 1957-59 average, an increase of 4% over Nov. '61 because of higher prices for most fishery products except canned fish. Canned fishery products were 8.9% lower than in Nov. '61.

FISH 'N' SEAFOOD TIME--------February 27 - April 14, 1963

Salt-water Fish

FISH STICKS & PORTIONS

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Fish stick prod. Jan.-Sept. '62 = 52.8 mil. lbs., about 2% greater than '61. Fish portion prod. same period = 55.3 mil. lbs., up 31%. Combined holdings Dec. 1, '62 = 9.8 mil. lbs., Dec. 1, '61 = 8.9 mil. lbs. Possible increased prod. toward end of quarter.

FLOUNDER & SOLE FILLETS

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Production probably less this quarter than last. Holdings Dec. 1, '62 = 5.6 mil. lbs., 3% below Dec. 1, '61. Imports first 11 mos. '62 = 17.1 mil. lbs., 2% higher than '61. Prices firm this quarter.

COD FILLETS

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Landings of cod seasonally light this quarter. Holdings Dec. 1, '62 = 10.7 mil. lbs., 17% higher than year earlier. Imports Jan.-Nov. '62 = 31.8 mil. lbs.; Jan.-Nov. '61 = 30.8 mil. lbs. Reduced inventories this quarter. Prices firm.

HADDOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady
Supplies - Light-to-Moderate
Demand - Good

Light haddock landings this quarter. Holdings substantially lower than last year; on Dec. 1, '62 = 5.9 mil. lbs., Dec. 1, '61 = 10.7 mil. lbs. Imports thru Nov. '62 = 23.5 mil. lbs., thru Nov. '61 = 24.7 mil. lbs., 5% lower. Prices firm.

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS

Market - Steady
Supplies - Light-to-Moderate
Demand - Good

Landings ocean perch in Maine during '62 about 11% below '61. Landings in Massachusetts during Jan.-Nov. '62 = 52.7 mil. lbs., 1% lower than year earlier period. Holdings Dec. 1, '62 = 13.1 mil. lbs. compared with 12.9 mil. lbs. in '61. Imports thru Nov. '62 = 18.5 mil. lbs.; Jan.-Nov. '61 = 17.8 mil. lbs. Prices strong this quarter.

HALIBUT

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Landings U.S. and Canada thru Nov. '62 = 74.7 mil. lbs. compared with 68.8 mil. lbs. during same period '61. Holdings Dec. 1, '62 = 22.4 mil. lbs.; Dec. 1, '61 = 15.5 mil. lbs. High prices remaining firm this quarter.

MACKEREL, CANNED

Market - Steady
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Moderate

Mackerel landings thru Dec. 22, '62 = 67,500 tons compared with 68,500 tons in '61. Pack of Pacific and Jack mackerel thru Dec. 15, '62 = 1.2 mil. std. cases, about the same as '61. Exports first 10 mos. '62 were up 582,000 lbs. or 19% over Jan.-Oct. '61.

SALMON, CANNED

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Total Alaskan pack '62 = 3.4 mil. std. cases; pack in '61 = 3.2 mil. std. cases. Pinks up 47% from '61. Cohos and chums also up. Reds down 42%. Kings down 19%. Imports first 11 mos. '62 = 6.8 mil. lbs.; same period '61 = 6.9 mil. lbs. Exports thru Oct. '62 = 5.8 mil. lbs.; Jan.-Oct. '61 = 5.3 mil. lbs. Some weakening in pink prices likely.

SARDINES, CALIFORNIA

Market - Firm
Supplies - Exhausted
Demand - Active

Landings during '62 season = about 1,500 tons, 92% below year earlier, and by far the lowest Pacific sardine catch on record. Total case pack '62 = 60,000 std. cases. Imports sardines not-in-oil thru Nov. '62 up 6% from '61.

SARDINES, MAINE ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Good

Total Maine sardine pack '62 amounted to 2.1 mil. std. cases; '61 pack = 754,000 std. cases, shortest in 23 years. Promotional efforts to move sardines into distribution channels has been successful as reflected by current inventory position. Prices firm this quarter.

TUNA, CANNED----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Moderate

Domestic tuna receipts '62 = 143,200 tons compared with 165,000 tons in '61. Frozen imports Jan.-Nov. '62 = 65,000 tons, about 23% higher than '61. Total '62 California tuna pack = 10.8 mil. std. cases. Imports canned tuna in brine 11 mos. '62 up only about 1% over '61.

Shellfish

CRAB MEAT ----------

Market - Strong
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Moderate

Holdings Dec. 1, '62 = 3.2 mil. lbs.; Dec. 1, '61 = 2.2 mil. lbs. Imports canned crab meat thru Nov. '62 = 3.3 mil. lbs., down 14% from same period '61. Prices to remain firm. Pacific Coast Dungeness crab season not encouraging.

LOBSTERS----------

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Maine landings of lobsters are seasonally very light in the first quarter. Imports from Canada 11 months '62 = 19.6 mil. lbs.; Jan.-Nov. '61 = 18.5 mil. lbs. Holdings spiny lobsters Dec. 1, '62 = 7.4 mil. lbs., compared with 5.3 mil. lbs. same date '61. Prices very firm this quarter.

SCALLOPS, SEA----------

Market - Strong
Supplies - Light-to-Moderate
Demand - Good

Production decline expected during this quarter. Holdings Dec. 1, '62 = 3.2 mil. lbs. about same as '61. Imports 11 months '62 = 11.0 mil. lbs., 33% more than '61. Prices this quarter very firm, could go higher.

SHRIMP----------

Market - Strong
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Landings, heads-off, So. Atlantic and Gulf, Jan.-Nov. '62 = 96.0 mil. lbs.; Jan.-Nov. '61 = 84.9 mil. lbs. Canned pack thru Nov. '62 = 22.0 mil. lbs., about 7.0 mil. lbs. higher than same period '61. Holdings Dec. 1, '62 frozen including breaded = 35.8 mil. lbs.; Dec. 1, '61 = 29.9 mil. lbs. Imports frozen shrimp thru Nov. '62 = 125.6 mil. lbs.; Jan.-Nov. '61 = 110.8 mil. lbs. Prices will remain high this quarter.

Industrial Products

FISH MEAL ----------

Market - Firm
Supplies - Light
Demand - Good

Production thru Nov. '62 = 286,000 tons, same period '61 = 279,000 tons. Imports Jan.-Nov. '62 = 233,000 tons; thru Nov. '61 = 195,000 tons. Prices expected to hold firm this quarter. Continued high imports.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Industrial production and nonagricultural employment during November remained at the summer and early autumn levels, while personal income and retail sales rose further.

Industrial Production - Indexes for most major groups of industries as well as those for final products and materials changed little in November. Auto assemblies, at 141% of the 1957-59 average, remained at the advanced level of the preceding four months. Production of other consumer durable goods was stable from August to November, after having declined 4% from the high May-June rate.

Construction - New construction, which was at a record level in October, declined in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $62 billion.

Employment - Seasonally adjusted employment in nonfarm establishments changed little in November. Employment increased in State and local government and in the service industries, but declined in the construction and in the metal and metal-fabricating industries. The unemployment rate at 5.8% was up somewhat from October, but unchanged from August and September.

Retail sales rose almost 2% in November. Department store sales rose sharply and sales increases were widespread among other nondurable goods stores. Deliveries of new autos, which had risen sharply to a record rate in October, declined moderately in November.

THE FOOD SITUATION

Food generally will not only be plentiful in 1963, but there should be a wide variety from which to choose. Increase in demand and a small gain in the per capita consumption is expected. Retail prices should show little change from those of '62.

Meat - In 1963, the consumption of red meats is likely to increase another pound per capita. Larger supplies of both beef and pork but smaller supplies of lamb and veal. Prices of meat will be about same as 1962 generally. However, higher prices for lamb and possibly beef will just about offset the decline in prices of pork.

Dairy Products - Another record milk production year is possible in 1963 with demand far below available supplies. Output should be up about a billion pounds over the 1962 production of 126.5 billion pounds.

Poultry and Eggs - Significantly greater production of broilers and lower prices could continue at least through first half of '63 resulting in a record per capita use. Another large turkey crop in prospect in '63, probably second in size to record in '61.

Fats and Oils - There are record supplies of food fats and oils. Domestic disappearance of food fats in '63 is expected to continue at about same rate as last year—46 pounds per person. Use of margarine on a per person basis declined in 1962 for the first time in seven years.

INT.DUP.,D.C.63- 21588